



Community Relations Service (CRS)

FY 2025 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	\$25.0 million (118 positions; 2 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$4.1 million
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2025 Budget Request:	\$29.1 million (118 positions; 2 attorneys)
Change From FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	+\$4.1 million (+16.2%)

Mission:

The Community Relations Service (CRS) mission and primary work includes: (1) assisting State and local communities in the prevention and resolution of tension, violence, and civil disorders relating to actual or perceived discrimination; and (2) working with communities to voluntarily develop and employ locally defined strategies to prevent and respond to bias incidents and hate crimes.

Organization:

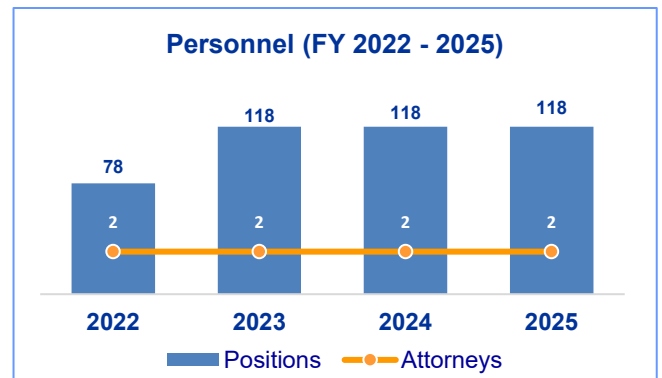
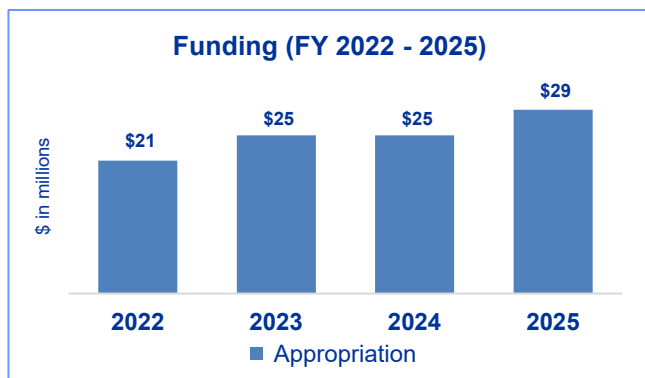
The CRS is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Currently the CRS is led by an Acting Component Head. The CRS has staff in 10 regional offices and 14 field offices across the United States.

Resources:

The FY 2025 budget request for CRS totals \$29.1 million, which is a 16.2 percent increase over the FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.

Personnel:

The CRS's direct authorized positions for FY 2025 total 118 positions and are the same as FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.



FY 2025 Strategy:

The CRS provides specialized mediation and conciliation services to State, local, and Federal officials. It helps communities prevent and respond to alleged violent hate crimes committed on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or religion throughout the United States. This helps communities deter and recover from alleged violent hate crimes.

To carry out its mission, the CRS has implemented several strategies intended to effectively address the issues of discriminatory practices based on race, color, or national origin that impair the rights of people. The CRS's strategies also enable communities to develop the capacity to work with local government and law enforcement officials to prevent and respond more effectively to violent hate crimes. These CRS strategies and programs include problem-solving oriented facilitated dialogue programs, such as Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships, School-Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together (School-SPIRIT), and City-Problem Identification & Resolution of Issues Together (City-SPIRIT).

It also includes educational sessions such as the Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes Forum and Protecting Places of Worship forum; and trainings such as Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim Americans, Engaging and Building Partnerships with Sikh Americans, Engaging and Building Relationships with Transgender Communities, and Facilitating Meetings Around Community Conflict.

In FY 2023, the CRS developed, piloted, and delivered two 10-module New Conciliator Training Programs. Fifteen new conciliators graduated from the hybrid program (virtual and in person) which included the following: CRS self-study, CRS fundamentals, Case Management Methodology, Confidentiality and Impartiality, Case Management Forms, Capstone Case Study, and Self-Assessment/Lessons Learned.

The myriad of CRS programs and services offered by conciliation specialists include Community Dialogues, Protecting Places of Worship forums, Event Marshaling, Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships and City, School, and Campus SPIRITS. CRS has been able to offer a number of programs and services to new conciliators in FY 2023 and into FY 2024. The increasing demand for more services, along with the current funding levels, has enabled CRS to increase its personnel, including conciliation specialists and program managers, who address the needs of individuals with disabilities, and a commitment to protect the safety of numerous communities of faith. These communities include Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian and Hindu (MASSAH). Jewish communities have seen a rise in attacks on synagogues in the country. There is also a growing component emphasis on ensuring the protection of houses of worship of all religions practiced in America. In addition to working with stakeholders on protecting houses of worship, the CRS will continue to work with communities to protect non-religious centers of community through focused programming developed by subject matter experts.

FY 2025 Program Changes:

The budget proposal includes funds for current services for the CRS. No program changes are requested.

Community Relations Service

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Community Relations Service		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2023 Appropriation	118	43	25,024
2024 Continuing Resolution	118	98	25,024
2025 Request	118	118	29,088
Change 2025 from 2024 Continuing Resolution	0	20	4,064
Technical Adjustments			
Additional Amount for 2024 Pay Raise	0	20	3,097
Total Technical Adjustments	0	20	3,097
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	936
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	31
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	967
2025 Current Services	118	118	29,088
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2025 Request	118	118	29,088

Community Relations Service
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2024 Continuing Resolution			2025 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Conflict Resolution and Violence Prevention - Program Operations	118	98	25,024	118	118	29,088
Total	118	98	25,024	118	118	29,088

Comparison by activity and program	2025 Total Program Changes			2025 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Conflict Resolution and Violence Prevention - Program Operations	0	0	0	118	118	29,088
Total	0	0	0	118	118	29,088